



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Secretary

Office of the

Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20201

**Case No. 2018-01033-FOIA-OS**

**January 16, 2019**

Robert Teel  
Journalist  
MuckRock.com  
DEPT MR 54973  
411A Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Dear Mr. Robert Teel:

This office is presently conducting a review of our pending Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to ascertain if the information subject to the request is still desired. Your May 28, 2018, FOIA request is a part of this review (copy enclosed).

We apologize for the delay in responding to your request. However, because of the increasing number of requests received by the Department of Health & Human Services, we found it necessary to adopt the ruling in the case of Open America v. Watergate Special Prosecution Force, 547 F.2d 605 (D.C. Cir. 1976) and exercise due diligence by following a first-in, first-out FOIA processing.

If you are still interested in pursuing this request, please sign this letter below and return it to me via fax transmission on (202) 690-8320, or e-mail to [kaira.wells@hhs.gov](mailto:kaira.wells@hhs.gov), or postal mail to Department of Health and Human Services FOIA Office, Suite 729H, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20201 and we will complete the processing of your request. If we have not received this letter within 30 working days from the date of this letter, we will assume you are no longer interested in continuing to pursue the request and it will be administratively closed.

For further information concerning this matter, please contact Kaira Wells, Government Information Specialist, .

Sincerely yours,

Michael S. Marquis  
Director  
FOI/Privacy Acts Division